

SEP - 7 2011

FCC Mail Room

**HOUSTON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Brian K. Pogodzinski, Houston County Engineer
Richard D. Walter, Houston County Surveyor

Date: September 1, 2011

To: Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Senator Al Franken
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Representative Tim Walz
Representative Jeremy Miller

From: Richard D. Walter
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Subject: Potential Impact of LightSquared 4G Proposal

Houston County as a small, rural county in southeast Minnesota and has, like most counties in the State, invested a large sum of money into Precision GPS equipment over the past decade. The Department of Transportation and County Surveyor's office alone has invested over \$90,000 in Precision GPS units. According to the GPS industry, the proposed LightSquared 4G proposal will render this equipment useless as the interference will not allow the presently owned equipment to be able to receive the satellite signals. Adjacent counties to the North (Winona County) and West (Fillmore County) have similar Precision GPS units. I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of the proposed LightSquared 4G network and how it will affect our current GPS operations.


Loss of precision GPS capability will require not only the County Surveyor and County Highway, but also the Private Surveyors, to revert to older, about 1990, more labor intensive methods of conducting Property surveys, surveys for design, right-of-way planning and staking, and construction purposes. To return to the older conventional surveying equipment would not only mean additional cost to purchase equipment to replace the precision GPS, it will also substantially increase labor costs. In a county with great relief like Houston County, I could see a need for additional personnel and longer delivery times. This will do little to allay public concerns and perceptions about the inefficiency of government agencies.

As the Houston County Surveyor, we have used precision GPS since 1996 with great success. We have built a complete horizontal (NAD 83) and vertical (NAVD 88) monuments control network throughout our County, of which all of our GIS, County Highway planning, public & private land surveys, and Elevation Certifications are tied too.

It is also my understanding that some of the recent advances in farming equipment use GPS, of which will also not be able to receive the satellite signals.

For these reasons, I believe the implementation of LightSquared's proposed 4G network should be delayed until it can successfully demonstrated that the proposed network will not negatively impact the precision GPS segment of the communications spectrum that has been used in Southeastern Minnesota for nearly twenty years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.D. Walter". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and a cursive "D. Walter".

Richard D. Walter
Houston County Surveyor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian K. Pogodzinski". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Brian K. Pogodzinski, P.E.
Houston County Engineer